

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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S/S - MR. EALUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 869

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJECT: ALLEGED US ISRAEL ARMS AGREEMENT - U.S. STATEMENTS

REF: DAMASCUS 2604

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY.

1. PER REFTEL (NOTAL) FOLLOWING ARE U.S.G. STATEMENTS ON  
ALLEGED NEW ARMS AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL, IN CHRONOLOGICAL  
ORDER:

WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING, NOVEMBER 5: Q. IS THE U.S.  
SPEEDING UP ITS ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL?

A. IT IS A POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND HAS BEEN FOR A  
LONG TIME, NOT TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF ARMS SHIPMENTS  
WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

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I DO UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD A FAIRLY EXTENSIVE BRIEFING YESTERDAY ON THIS SUBJECT. AND I WOULD ALSO REMIND YOU THAT WHEN PRESIDENT FORD MET WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN OF ISRAEL ON SEPTEMBER 13 HE STATED, AND THIS IS A QUOTE: "THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER REVIEWED THE ONGOING US MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP AND THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED THE CONTINUITY OF THAT RELATIONSHIP." FYI: THERE WAS NO DEPT. BRIEFING ON SUBJECT NOVEMBER 4.

2. DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AT PRESS BRIEFING IN WEST GERMANY NOVEMBER 5 (FOLLOWING IS PARAPHRASE SINCE VERBATIM TAPE TRANSMISSION TO PENTAGON FROM WEST GERMANY WAS GARBLED. VERBATIM TEXT UNAVAILABLE UNTIL SECRETARY SCHLESINGER RETURNS NOVEMBER 8.)

Q. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THE (COLUMNIST) JOSEPH ALSOP REPORT ON ADVANCED AID FOR ISRAEL?

A. THE UNITED STATES HAS A CONTINUING AND LONG AND HISTORICAL SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO DRAMATIC CHANGE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP IN THE LAST FEW DAYS OR WEEKS. THERE WILL BE A CONTINUATION OF THE FLOW OF SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL, BUT THERE IS NO DRAMATIC SHIFT. IT IS KNOWN, I BELIEVE, THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME STRIPPING AWAY OF EQUIPMENTS FROM THE ACTIVE RESERVE FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PERIOD SINCE OCTOBER 1973 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL. THAT REDUCTION IN THE AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES OF THE U.S. FORCES HAS NOT BEEN EXTENSIVE, AND IT IS NOT LIKELY TO GO VERY MUCH DEEPER. THERE WILL BE NO DRAMATIC CHANGES IN THAT AREA.

3. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT DAILY PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 6 (VERBATIM):

Q. DID THE SECRETARY MEET LAST THURSDAY WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ AND TALK ABOUT MOVING 100 TANKS FASTER TO ISRAEL?

A. DID YOU SEE THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT ON THAT? UNFOR-  
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TUNATELY I HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE EXACT WORDS BUT MR. BEECHER TOLD ME ON THE PHONE THIS: THERE'S BEEN NO DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THE RELATIONSHIP -- THAT'S THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL -- IN THE MATTER OF PROVIDING THEM WITH EQUIPMENT, (THAT) HAS BEEN DECIDED ON OR MADE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS OR WEEKS. I THINK THAT ANSWERS THAT QUESTION. AS FAR AS MEETING WITH HIM (DINITZ), HE (SCHLESINGER) DID, BUT I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH WHAT THEY

TALKED ABOUT.

Q. WHEN RABIN WAS HERE IN SEPTEMBER HE AND PRESIDENT FORD APPARENTLY TALKED ABOUT SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM ARMS DELIVERY TO ISRAEL. WAS THIS PROBABLY A TOPIC THAT DINITZ DISCUSSED AS TO SENDING THESE THINGS OVER THERE FASTER?

A. I DON'T KNOW. IT WOULD SEEM LOGICAL, BUT I DON'T KNOW.

Q. ARE YOU DENYING THAT AFTER THE RABIN VISIT IN SEPTEMBER, WE AGREED TO SUPPLY THEM 200 M-60 TANKS?

A. I'M NOT DENYING ANYTHING. I'M JUST MERELY STATING WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, WHICH I THINK IS THE ONLY ANSWER I CAN GIVE TO THE QUESTION OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT THEY'VE MET.

4. STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT DAILY PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 7:

Q. WHILE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER AND VARIOUS PEOPLE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL, THE INFORMATION MINISTER OF ISRAEL SAYS THE US IS STEPPING UP ARMS DELIVERIES. COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON ON THAT SCORE?

A. THE RECENT FLURRY OF STORIES ABOUT A SPEED-UP OF US ARMS TO ISRAEL ARE NOT ACCURATE. THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH SPEED UP.

Q. YARIV (ISRAELI MINISTER OF INFORMATION) IS QUOTED AS SAYING ISRAEL HAS BEEN ASSURED OF AN IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF ARMS AND "AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS HARDWARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL GET TO ISRAEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." ARE YOU DENYING THAT THAT IS AN ACCURATE STATEMENT?

A. I WOULD LET MY COMMENTS STAND. I WOULD ONLY ADD THAT IT IS, AS YOU KNOW, OUR POLICY NOT TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF OUR ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. BUT I WILL REFER YOU BACK TO THE STATEMENT PUT OUT BY THE WHITE HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 13, WHICH STATED -- THIS WAS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING BETWEEN FORD AND RABIN: "THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER REVIEWED THE ONGOING US MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP AND THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED THE CONTINUITY OF THAT RELATIONSHIP." IT WAS IN THAT CONTEXT THAT THERE WERE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER AND AMBASSADOR DINITZ. INGERSOLL

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